



Publishing serials

YOU NAME IT! (Helpful hints for editors and publishers of journals, reports and other serial publications) / Jean A. Conochie. Canberra: AACOBS. 1979. 32pp. \$2.50. ISBN 0 642 91071 5.

If *Time* magazine changed its name the cost would be enormous – not for the publishers of that magazine but for libraries throughout the world and for the secondary information services on which libraries rely. In every index that lists the title *Time* the entry would have to be annotated and another one made for the new title.

You name it points to this and other problems posed by continuing (or serial) publications, such as journals, periodicals or newsletters. It is a consumers' guide written for the producers.

Jean Conochie has for many years been editor of the union list *Scientific Serials in Australian libraries*. She must have seen every evil that the serial publisher can commit. Here she spells them out, illustrates them with horrible examples and warns the reader not to do likewise.

Take the case of the journal which appeared in 1971 as *Rydge's Construction, Civil Engineering & Mining Review*. In February 1972 it turned up as *Construction, Civil Engineering & Mining Review*. In 1976 someone, presumably a new editor, decided it needed pepping up, so the title page for June of that year showed something that could be read as *Rydge's CCEM* with a subtitle *Construction, Civil Engineering, Mining*. Who benefited?

When two journals decide to merge 'the users are almost always the readers, suppliers, indexing/abstracting services and libraries that have to cope with the union'. The offspring is likely to be launched bearing the volume numbering of one of its predecessors. Surely a clean break is better for all concerned.

Miss Conochie's many hints include how to publish proceedings of sequential conferences, what the subscriber needs to know about supplements, keeping an archival set of your publication for the sake of posterity (this implies that the libraries might have given it up), getting an International Standard Serial Number from the National Library and what legal obligations the publisher has to deposit publications in National and State libraries.

Concise and tellingly illustrated, this is an excellent guide for people who are new to the job of publishing serial publications. Experienced practitioners might also welcome some hints on how not to wreck the machinery of record and recall. A problem remains: how to get this pamphlet into the hands of those who need it.

You name it is sold by the AACOBS Secretariat at the National Library of Australia and is obtainable in the reference departments of all AACOBS member libraries.

Janice Kenny
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Rules for filing

ALA FILING RULES. Chicago: Filing Committee, Resources and Technical Services Division, American Library Association. 1980. 60pp. US\$3.50 ISBN 08389 3255X.

Filers who have been wrestling with the *ALA Rules for Filing Catalog Cards* since 1968 will be agreeably surprised to see the slim new *ALA Filing Rules* of 1980.

These new rules for word-by-word filing are based to a much greater degree than their predecessors on the 'file-as-is' principle. Since they are applicable to card, book, microform or online format, they are considered to be a new work and not just another edition of the old rules.

Many filers were daunted by the morass of detail in the 1968 rules (remember the two pages of Islamic name headings?) and will consider the present work of 60 pages to be a masterpiece of skilful condensation.

The introduction includes suggestions for helping the users of the files. The general rules, are, on the whole, easy to follow. The few special rules are mostly extensions to the general rules, and options are kept to a minimum. Appendices cover modified letters, special characters and articles in foreign languages. A glossary and an index complete the work.

The general rules state that numerals at the beginning of titles are put at the beginning of the arrangement of entries before spelt-out words. This means, of course, that titles beginning with a number which is written as a figure, will be a long way from those titles beginning with the same number spelt out. However, something of the sort was inevitable in this computer age and will be accepted by most filers.

Punctuation is to be ignored. When applying the new 'file-as-is' rules, old timers will have to get used to such arrangements as:

London and Londoners (Title),

London, Andrea (Author),

London as it is Today (Title);

London, Jack (Author).

This is a simple change which many of us will consider to be long overdue. (Will *British Books in Print* follow suit?) Main and added entries precede subject entries only if these entries have identical access points.

The condensation of rules, masterly as it is, has led to at least one complicated area. One cannot help wondering whether the novice filer will ever have the patience to extract, say, the rules for filing identical added entries from the brilliant complexity of Rule 2.3 (Subarrangement of Identical Access Points).

Another minor criticism is the rather poor setting out of one or two of the rules. For instance, the first list of examples under Rule 1.3 (Optional Rule for Ampersands) is, in fact, not a list of examples of 1.3, but of the general rule 1.2 put there for comparison. This is not made immediately obvious.

It is to be hoped that a hardcover version will appear soon. The work deserves a better deal than two staples and a cardboard cover.

The Filing Committee of the American Library Association is to be heartily congratulated on this vastly improved set of rules for word-by-word filing.

It would appear, then, that the battle between word-by-word filing and letter-by-letter systems is long over. For any librarian who, from experiments with readers, suspects that a letter-by-letter system suits the average reader much better, there is, unfortunately, no comfort.

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'Digestable history'

THE HISTORY OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE / Elva S. Smith, revised and enlarged by Margaret Hodges and Susan Steinfurst. Chicago: American Library Association. 1980. 312pp. US\$40.00. ISBN 0 8389 0286 3.

Elva Smith was one of America's first trained children's librarians and certainly one of the earliest teachers of children's literature.

At the Training School for Children's Librarians at the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, she used as teaching material an outstanding collection of rare books for children now known as the Scott-Smith Collection. From this she developed, in 1937, a syllabus ranging from the Anglo-Saxon period to the late 19th century, covering each important epoch in a separate chapter – eg English Didactic Writers: the late 18th and early 19th century; mid-Victorian literature in England and America. She also included chapters on folklore in the history of children's literature, and illustrators of books for children.

Each chapter contained a brief but highly readable introduction, an exemplary and intriguing outline of the period and its writers, plus books and articles on individual writers of the period. Her book thus became both a succinct and pithy history of children's literature and a fascinating bibliography which opens up unlimited opportunities for further pleasure and research.

This new edition of her book eliminates the less accessible sources and updates the rigorously selected bibliographies to 1977. It makes available to the student and the booklover diverse offerings – from a list of works by and about that redoubtable Victorian, Mrs Barbauld, (Hymns in Prose for Children; calculated to impress the infant mind with early devotion) to a bibliography of critical material on the art of Beatrix Potter.

The serious study of children's books as a literary genre and as social history began with the great collectors such as Edgar Osborne, Charles Welsh and Eric Quayle and with researchers of the calibre of F.J. Harvey Darton, Paul Hazard and Elva Smith herself – all of whom were enthusiastic bibliophiles and perceptive critics.

Now that the need for post-graduate studies in children's literature is at last being recognised in Australia, scholarly works such as Elva Smith's are essential. This book is not only a wonderfully digestible history of children's literature but it is a reference book in that discipline which is a pleasure to read, and in which it is a delight to browse.

Maurice Saxby

Kuring-gai College of Advanced Education

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